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According to the embodiment of the invention, as shown in Fig. 2(b), the ascending and descending cage 52 which has arrived at the top floor 57 (shown by an alternate long and short dash line) and the sheave 27 are laterally separated from each other. The sheave 27 has a rotation surface 27b (Fig. 2(a)), generally perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the sheave 27 and opposed to a side of the ascending and descending cage 52 when the ascending and descending cage 52 is positioned at the top floor 57. The ascending and descending cage 52 can approach to the ceiling 57d leaving the least allowable space for the overrun. Therefore, there is no need of providing the rope pulleys, the deflecting sheaves or the like in the upper part of the elevator passage 59, and so, the structure will be simplified and the overall height of the building 50 will not be unnecessarily increased. The allowable space for the overrun means a space formed between the ceiling 57d and an upper face of the ascending and descending cage 52 at its ordinary stopping position, in order to avoid a collision of the ascending and descending cage 52 with the ceiling 57d when it has overrun upward.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as rewritten in clean form below. A marked-up version of the claims amended by re-writing and having all additions underlined and all deletions bracketed is attached hereto as page 16 of this amendment.

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1. (Twice Amended) An elevator apparatus comprising:
- an actuating device including a sheave around which a rope engaged with an ascending and descending cage is wound, said sheave being adapted to rotate thereby to move said rope with its rotation, a driving section for rotating said sheave, said driving section including a speed-reducer,
- wherein said actuating device is installed in a machine room provided on a top floor of a building in which said ascending and descending cage is disposed, said machine room is adjacent an elevator passage for said cage and a rotation surface of said sheave is generally perpendicular to an axis of rotation of said sheave and opposed to a side of said cage when said